The Thirteenth Annual

DHPA GRASSROOTS PRESERVATION ROUNDUP

"Idea Exchange"

(Fort Wayne) Saturday, May 12, 2007

Elkhart 2003









GRASSROOTS ROUNDUP PROFILE Year One -- Anderson

Host Organization: Historic Gruenewald House

Event Location: Gruenewald House Museum Carriage House

Date: Saturday, October 21, 1995

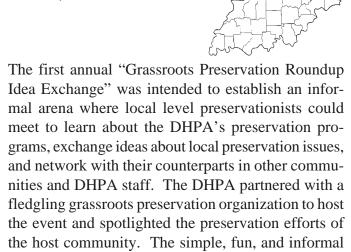


The Historic Gruenewald House, built 1860, site of the first Grassroots Preservation Roundup.

About 55 participants representing nine different preservation and archaeology groups braved the cold weather on a fall day to attend the first Grassroots Preservation Roundup in Anderson.

Participants enjoyed tours of the Gruenewald House Museum and lunch and networking sessions in the museum's carriage house.

Afternoon tours spotlighted a number of preservation activities in Anderson, including the Plum Retreat, the Armstrong Row Houses, the former Carnegie Library, and the Paramount Theatre and Ball Room.



format for the event appealed to local preservationists, and the event has become a fall tradition for the DHPA. The Roundup is held in a different part of the state each year in order to reach out to new groups.



DHPA staffer Sally Dickson barbeques hamburgers for Roundup participants. The whole event was designed to be fun, informal, and operate on a shoe-string budget.





GRASSROOTS ROUNDUP PROFILE Year Two -- Huntington

Host Organization: Huntington Alert

Event Location: Forks of the Wabash Historic Park

Date: Saturday, October 26, 1996

About 40 preservationists enjoyed a beautiful fall day in Huntington during the second annual Grassroots Preservation Roundup. Fourteen local preservation and archaeology groups were represented. The Roundup was held at the Forks of the Wabash Historic Park outisde of Huntington, a site that commemorates and interprets the interaction between the U.S. Government and the Miami Indians prior to their removal from Indiana in 1846.

The host organization, Huntington Alert, was at that time a small band of very dedicated and highly motivated local preservationists. They were fighting to save Horace Mann School from demolition. Later, this group acquired the abandoned school and used grants and tax credits to rehabilitate the building for 44 units of affordable senior housing.

Lunch was prepared by DHPA staff. Roundup tours included visits to the vacant D.A. Purviance Mansion and Horace Mann School with a dessert reception at the rehabilitated LaFontaine Center. The fabulous pies from Johnny's Diner got rave reviews!





Huntington Alert member David Schenkel leads a tour of the magnificent but vacant Horace Mann School.





Horace Mann School "before" (left) and "after" (right) extensive rehabilitation by Huntington Alert. Classrooms were converted to apartments for seniors. Many of the residents at one time attended school in the building. Huntington Alert received the DHPA's preservation award in 1998 for this outstanding project.





GRASSROOTS ROUNDUP PROFILE Year Three -- Evansville

Host Organization: Reitz Home Preservation Society
Event Location: Reitz Home Museum Carriage House

Date: Saturday, September 27, 1997



The third annual Grassroots Preservation Roundup was held in southwestern Indiana. About 45 people from 14 different organizations attended the event.

Lunch featured bratwurst purchased from an authentic German meat market in nearby Haubstadt and cooked by DHPA staff. The dessert reception featured red velvet cake from The Jungle, a downtown restaurant that had been a rehabilitation tax credit project. DHPA staff strive each year to find local food vendors that represent the ethnic and cultural heritage of the host community.



The Reitz Home Preservation Society received a grant from the DHPA in 1997 to repair and repaint the decorative wood and metalwork on the 1871 Second Empire style house.

Following the lunch and networking sessions, Roundup participants toured the magnificent Reitz Home Museum. Modest looking on the outside, the Reitz Home features a remarkably opulent Victorian interior. Later, Evansville city preservation officer, Dennis Au, led a walking tour of the Riverside National Register Historic District, a neighborhood of mansions and high-style homes near the Ohio River.

The dessert reception was held at the rehabilitated pagoda on the bank of the Ohio River. Participants networked while enjoying the spectacular view of the river.





GRASSROOTS ROUNDUP PROFILE Year Four -- Crown Point

Host Organization: Lake County Sheriff's House Foundation

Event Location: Lake County Sheriff's House Date: Saturday, September 26, 1998



In 1998, local preservationists headed north to attend the Grassroots Preservation Roundup in Crown Point. The event was hosted by the Lake County Sheriff's House Foundation, an organization that is working very hard to restore the historic sheriff's residence and jail. About 40 people attended, representing 13 different organizations.

A Mexican restaurant on the courthouse square provided a wonderful buffet lunch, and a downtown bakery provided freshly made pastries for dessert.

The tour stops included the Lake County Sheriff's House and Jail (made famous by John Dillinger's escape), the Lake County Courthouse and Courthouse Square, and the Buckley Farmstead -- a turn-of-the-century living history farm operated by the Lake County Parks Department.



The Lake County Sheriff's House and Jail is being restored in phases. The local organization has received three small grants from the DHPA to complete this large and daunting project in an incremental fashion.



Participants enjoyed dessert at the Buckley Farmstead living history museum. The property received DHPA grant funds in 1994 to rehabilitate the main barn and silo and again in 1999 to repair the hog barn.



DHPA historical architect Dave Duvall explains the use of rehabilitation tax credits.





GRASSROOTS ROUNDUP PROFILE Year Five -- Vevay

Host Organization: Musee de Venoge

Event Location: Rosemont Inn Bed & Breakfast Date: Saturday, November 13, 1999



In 1999 the Roundup was held in Vevay in southeastern Indiana. More than 50 participants represented 15 different preservation organizations. Attendees enjoyed gorgeous fall weather and lunch outdoors. Participants gave presentations on the front lawn of the Rosemont Inn, which sloped down to the bank of the Ohio River.

Tours in historic Vevay featured stops at the 1830 Farnsley-Whitehead House, the 1835 Kessler-Wallin Forge, and the 1880 Schenk Mansion. The latter property was in the process of being rehabilitated for use as a bed-and-breakfast.



Participants took advantage of the beautiful fall weather and met on the lawn of the Rosemont Inn Bed & Breakfast with its breathtaking view of the Ohio River.



The dessert reception was held at the c. 1815 Venoge Cottage. This rare example of a French-Swiss settlement era cottage had been scheduled for a practice burn by the local fire department until local preservationists intervened. The local group is now carefully restoring the building with the intent of creating a museum of Switzerland County's early Swiss settlement heritage.

Local preservationist Tom Weaver explains the unusual European construction method used on the c. 1815 Venoge Cottage.





GRASSROOTS ROUNDUP PROFILE Year Six -- Farmland

Host Organization: Historic Farmland USA

Event Location: Farmland F&AM Lodge Building Date: Saturday, September 23, 2000



The sixth annual Grassroots Preservation Roundup was held in east central Indiana, in the quaint and aptly named community of Farmland. This town of about 1,400 people boasts one of the most active Main Street organizations in the state. More than 40 people attended the event, representing 20 different preservation groups.

Lunch was served in The Chocolate Moose, a local diner in the ground floor of the Oddfellows Lodge Building (shown below right). The networking sessions were held next door in the F&AM Lodge Building, which was being rehabilitated by the Main Street organization as a community center.

A round-robin tour featured adaptive reuse projects in the two fraternal lodge buildings and the town's grain elevator, an example of upper story housing in the R.G. Watson Building, and a rehabilitation tax credit project in the C.C. Gooden Building.

A sumptuous dessert was provided by Tanglevine Crossing, a downtown Farmland establishment.



A view of one of the highly intact blocks of downtown Farmland shows the imposing Oddfellows Lodge Building on the corner, with the much smaller F&AM Lodge Building next door, site of the Roundup.



Soggy but intrepid Roundup participants toured down-town Farmland's numerous preservation highlights in intermittent rain.





GRASSROOTS ROUNDUP PROFILE Year Seven -- Terre Haute

Host Organization: Downtown Terre Haute, Inc.

Event Location: Swope Art Museum

Date: Saturday, September 15, 2001



Occuring just four days after the tragedy of September 11, 2001, the seventh annual Grassroots Preservation Roundup drew a surprisingly large crowd of 59 people. Although some registered attendees stayed away, the vast majority showed up ready to get back to the work of preserving our state's rich cultural heritage. This event attracted representatives of 30 different preservation organizations from 14 counties!

The morning began with an optional breakfast session inside the beautiful Indiana Theater. Members of ArtsIlliana gave a brief presentation on the development of Terre Haute's arts corridor.

The Roundup was held in the third floor storage area of the Swope Art Museum. After the morning presentations, participants enjoyed boxed lunches from Market Bella Rossa, a favorite downtown deli. The gourmet sandwiches and jumbo cookies got rave reviews!



The magnificent Indiana Theater hosted a breakfast reception and presentation about the local arts corridor. The Swope Art Museum and the Indiana Theater are two central anchors of the district.



The Swope Art Museum was the venue for the eighth annual Roundup. Participants enjoyed viewing the collections during the lunch hour.

Four walking tour options covered the local arts district, downtown preservation highlights in the commercial district, neighborhood preservation activities in a near-downtown historic residential area, and church preservation with a stained glass tour of four historic sanctuaries. A lavish dessert reception was held in the Chamber of Commerce Building.





GRASSROOTS ROUNDUP PROFILE Year Eight -- Bedford

Host Organization: Bedford Revitalization, Inc.

Event Location: Lawrence County Museum of History

Date: Saturday, October 5, 2002



The eighth annual Grassroots Preservation Roundup took place in Bedford ... "The Land of Limestone." Participants who showed up early were treated to a breakfast buffet and tour of the Elks Lodge. The Roundup was held in the former Buck Lemon furniture store on the courthouse square. This building was being rehabilitated as the future home of the Lawrence County Museum of History. Thirty people attended representing 14 different local preservation organizations. The group was welcomed to Bedford with opening remarks from Mayor John Williams.



The 2002 Roundup was held in this wonderful, but vacant, building on the courthouse square.

Following lunch at S&L Creative Corner (located at one corner of the courthouse square), participants divided into two groups for tours. The first group walked several blocks to Greenhill Cemetery in order to see incredible historic examples of the stonecarvers' art. The other group walked around the courthouse square and nearby blocks to see preserved commercial buildings occupied by old and new businesses, newly created upper story housing, and rehabilitated facades.

The dessert reception was held in the Lawrence County Courthouse. The sumptuous desserts were provided by Petropolis ("Stone City") Cafe, occupant of a recently rehabilitated storefront that had been assisted by a DHPA rehabilitation grant in 1998-1999.



One tour group visited Greenhill Cemetery, where the renowned stonecarvers of Bedford left many artistic monuments.



The second tour group inspected numerous examples of preservation projects on or near the courthouse square, including Petropolis Cafe.





GRASSROOTS ROUNDUP PROFILE Year Nine -- Elkhart

Host Organization: Elkhart Historic & Cultural Preservation Comm.

Event Location: Cornerstone Building, formerly Hotel Elkhart

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2003

The ninth annual Grassroots Preservation Roundup was held in Elkhart. About 40 people attended from city governments, 4 different historic preservation review boards, local housing agencies, neighborhood associations, and historical societies, in addition to several property owners and interested individuals. More than 20 different preservation organizations were represented to share their preservation successes and challenges.

The event was held in the Cornerstone Building. Formerly the "Hotel Elkhart," this historic downtown high-rise has been converted to affordable senior housing. Generations of Elkhart area residents attended proms, weddings, and social events at the Athenian Room on the top floor with its commanding view of the city. Participants were able to see this room during a quick lunch-time tour. Lunch was provided by D.A. Pumpernickel's, a commercial tenant of the Cornerstone Building.

Following lunch, local officials led a walking tour of the State & Division Street Historic District to see good examples of multiple-unit houses that were returned to their original single-family configurations. Next, the group toured the 1924 ELCO Theater, an important anchor of the downtown. A short bus ride brought the group to the Beardsley Avenue Historic District, a near-downtown historic neighborhood of high-style homes, including several designed by noted local architect E. Hill Turnock. The dessert reception was held in a church in the Beardsley neighborhood and gave participants one last chance to network with each other.







Roundup participants enjoyed the walking tours through two of Elkhart's neighborhoods.





GRASSROOTS ROUNDUP PROFILE Year Ten -- Indianapolis

Host Organization: Irvington Historical Society
Event Location: Bona Thompson Memorial Center

Date: Saturday, October 23, 2004





The Bona Thompson Center.

In 2004, the DHPA celebrated a decade of public outreach through the Grassroots Preservation Roundup! About 35 people attended the event in the historic neighborhood of Irvington on the near east side of Indianapolis. Attendees came from communities across central Indiana: Lafayette, Kokomo, Huntington, Marion, Columbus, Farmersburg, Muncie, Bloomington, and Indianapolis. Seventeen different organizations were represented, including historical societies, community development corporations, Main Street organizations, historic theaters and performing arts centers, municipal governments, and preservation consultants.

Participants gathered in the beautiful Bona Thompson Memorial Center, formerly the library on the original Butler University campus. The building recently had been rehabilitated for use as an arts and community center by the Irvington Historical Society, the local sponsor for the Roundup. During lunch, participants

enjoyed seeing about 50 works of art on display for a juried art show.



Representatives from the City of Lafayette talk about their community's preservation efforts.



The Benton House in Irvington.

After lunch, participants armed with umbrellas braved the rainy weather to set out on the tours. One group walked through the curvilinear streets of the "Historic Irvington" neighborhood, which was an early suburb community platted in 1870 that was annexed by the growing city of Indianapolis in 1902. The second group was given an orientation tour of the Indianapolis Park & Boulevard Plan, designed by famed landscape architect George Kessler around 1909. Soggy but enthusiastic tour-goers returned to the Bona Thompson Center for dessert and more networking.





GRASSROOTS ROUNDUP PROFILE Year Eleven -- Delphi

Host Organizations: Carroll County Wabash & Erie Canal, Inc.

and the Delphi Historical Society

Event Location: Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center

Date: Saturday, May 21, 2005



In 2005, the eleventh annual Grassroots Roundup was held in Delphi. The 48 participants included members of 18 different local preservation organizations and a handful of interested individuals. Attendees came from Delphi, Lafayette, Marion, Muncie, Kokomo, Indianapolis, Sheridan, and even as far away as Bloomington, Fort Wayne, and Cambridge City. The organizations represented included a number of historical societies and museums, historic theater groups, city preservation offices and review boards, and a few "historians-atlarge."



Local host Dan McCain led the walking tour from the Roundup venue, the Canal Interpretive Center (shown in background).

The group gathered in the new Canal Interpretive Center. This facility houses a conference center as well as exhibits that describe the construction, operation, and historical significance of the Wabash & Erie Canal through Indiana. Following presentations by DHPA staff and representatives of the participating organizations, the participants enjoyed a delicious BBQ lunch and time to network and share ideas.



Participants looped a section of the Wabash & Erie Canal, crossing at the picturesque 1873 bowstring bridge that the host organization rehabilitated using funding from the DHPA's Hometown Indiana grant program.

The afternoon featured a trolley tour of preservation highlights in downtown Delphi, including the opera house where James Whitcomb Riley performed many times. Participants also enjoyed a walking tour along the towpath of a watered section of the canal with a stop at the 1873 bowstring pony truss bridge saved and rehabilitated by the local sponsor organization in 1998-2000. Walkers encountered local volunteers working on the towpath during the monthly work-day event and even members of a plein-aire artists' group painting pictures along the canal. The dessert reception was held in a canal-era house museum.





GRASSROOTS ROUNDUP PROFILE

Year Twelve -- New Albany

Host Organizations: New Albany Historic Preservation Commission

and the Friends of Division Street School

Event Location: Division Street School Date: Saturday, June 3, 2006

The historic Division Street School in New Albany was the venue for the twelfth annual Grassroots Roundup. Built in 1885, this two-room schoolhouse served African-American students until 1946. A local non-profit organization formed in 1999 to rescue the deteriorating school building and interpret its history. The 34 Roundup participants gathered in the restored turn-of-the-century classroom. The hard wooden desks made everyone sit up straight and pay attention!

People traveled to New Albany from as far away as Vincennes, Bloomington, Fishers, and Muncie. One woman even drove from North Carolina to join her husband at the event! Participants represented 15 different groups, including museums and historic sites, university archaeology programs, local historic preservation commissions, and several local organizations and historical societies. A walking tour of downtown featured one in-progress and several completed rehabilitation projects.

The highlight of the 2006 Grassroots Roundup was meeting Matt and Jessica Bergman, a young couple that had recently moved to the Louisville area. They learned about the Roundup on the Internet while researching preservation efforts in New Albany. During the participant introductions session, they announced that they had just signed a purchase agreement on a long-vacant commercial building in downtown New Albany ... to the cheers and applause of the local participants! As a result of the Roundup, the Bergmans learned about financial incentives for rehabilitation projects like theirs and were instantly connected to a support network of preservationists in their new community.



The classroom setting of the Division Street School was a great venue for the Roundup.



Local preservation commission chair Ted Fulmore described preservation efforts in the host community.



County historian Dave Barksdale led the walking tour of downtown New Albany.



